

6 MONTHS MILITARY TRAINING URGED

Senate Committee Told Boys Can Be Made Soldiers in That Time.

BILL TO BE INTRODUCED

Labor and Church Said to Be Leaning Toward Plan.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Six months of military training will be sufficient to make a good soldier of the American boy, notwithstanding the statement to the contrary by Gen. Scott before the Senate Military Affairs Committee yesterday, when he took issue with Major-General Leonard Wood on the same subject. Such was the view expressed before the committee today by two men experienced in training young men—Howard M. Gross of Chicago, president of the Universal Military Training League, and Edward Harding of New York, prominent in the work of the Boy Scouts of America and a lawyer.

Both witnesses testified that the Hay organizations for promotion of military training had learned that six months of training if it be taken in earnest and intelligent direction toward military instruction will make a fair soldier of the average American boy. Mr. Harding asserted that a threefold result could be obtained by six months of such training: an organized reserve army, trained men and the necessary equipment. He also asserted that the regular army could be reduced 50 per cent. if this plan obtained. Mr. Harding told the committee that the large standing army was the result of military training and the complaints against militarism.

"Our plan," said he, "would reduce the force under arms and is the antithesis of militarism."

Mr. Gross said: "Various men working organizations interested in universal military training met in New York recently and agreed upon a plan of training for six months. We believe that this six months should be intensive as to work and instruction in the camps."

"We shall have the help of many prominent labor leaders," said Mr. Gross. "Labor wants to be sure their boys must serve as well as poor boys and that the new force will not be used for constant labor duty. I think that once union labor sees that our plan contemplates just what it asks for it will be with the movement."

Mr. Gross informed Senator Chamberlain that the cooperation of three of the great church organizations had been procured, mentioning specifically the Catholic and Presbyterian. Senator Chamberlain expects to introduce an amended bill for military training shortly.

The sub-committee decided to recall Gen. Scott and Major-General Leonard Wood. Both officers have been asked to appear for cross-examination by Senator Blair Lee, a champion of the National Guard.

Antithesis of Militarism.

In preparation for the cross-examination it is understood that staff officers familiar with mobilization will be present and prepared to submit the original reports from the National Guard. The names of the organizations examined. The compiled summary of these reports avoids mention of any specific units of the Guard.

When Gen. Scott before the House committee quoted from the mobilization report to show that out of an enrolled strength of 95,000 men in certain units of the Guard called for border duty only 47,000 actually were available for the Federal service Representative Anthony of Kansas asked whether it was fair to judge the National Guard system on a mobilization of what was in reality the organized militia. Representatives Hull and Greene joined in this view.

Gen. Scott admitted this point was well taken, as the act did not go into effect until after the call was made. He reiterated his opinion that completion of the new organization would produce little better results.

When the General read figures on National Guard recruiting showing that only 15,000 men were collected in four months active work throughout the country, and that at a cost of more than \$50 a man, "just to enroll him, not equip him," Representative Greene interrupted.

"Was not this after the year volume test knew he was to see no active service, but merely to do border duty?" he asked.

"It was to carry out orders by the President of the United States to meet an emergency," Gen. Scott said.

Only Discussing the System.

"We cannot rely for our defense on a system of a kind where that would be possible," Gen. Scott said. "Let me say also that I have specially asked you to understand that I am not discussing the men of the National Guard, but the system."

Gen. Scott admitted that the police duty performed by the Guard was likely to cause the disintegration of any volunteer force. He maintained, however, in response to further pointed questions from the committee that they were there to protect lives and property.

A resolution introduced by Mr. Emerson, independently of the committee hearings, requests the President to inform the House within ten days after its adoption why the Guard is kept on the border.

The opposition of the House Committee to the maintenance of the Guard on the border any longer was obvious from the questions they put to the Chief of Staff.

Gen. Scott suggested many modifications of the recent National defense act, the most important of which was the increase of the General Staff from fifty-five to ninety-two officers. The present number of officers detailed for that duty, he said, is insufficient to enable the United States army to assimilate the lessons of the European war. He also proposed the appointment of administrative chiefs to head the infantry, field artillery and cavalry arms.

GEN. WOOD EXPLAINS.

Says Six Months Intensive Training Is Sufficient.

Rigorous training of a sort now unknown in the American army applied for one six months period to boys just out of high school is Major-General Leonard Wood's idea of what is needed to establish a reserve army for this country.

"Six months intensive training given under conditions where the men's attention is devoted wholly to military work is equivalent to from one and a half to two years service in the United States army under normal conditions," he declared yesterday in amplification of his testimony before the Senate Military Committee on Tuesday.

"It isn't the number of months or years a man spends in the army that makes him a trained soldier, but it is the number of hours of actual work un-

NO U-BOAT SEEN AT SINKING OF RUSSIAN

American Consul at Malta Reports Survivors Think She Was Torpedoed.

NOT ADMIRALTY VESSEL

Ship Struck Near Stern When in Water 2,000 Fathoms Deep.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—A detailed account of the sinking of the British horse ship Russian, in which seventeen American muleteers lost their lives, reached the State Department today by cable from Consul Kepinger at Malta.

It says the steamer, fighting through a strong gale and drenching rain in the Mediterranean, was struck stern by what was believed to have been a torpedo, though no submarine was seen, and that twenty-eight men, including the Americans, were drowned through the capsizing of a lifeboat when the crew left the ship. Later a trawler came to the rescue and took the Russian in tow, but the steamer went to the bottom the next day.

Consul Kepinger said he was informed that the Russian was not under Admiralty charter, although she had delivered a cargo of mules at Salonica, the allied military base in Greece.

To Ask Central Powers.

The American Government will make inquiries at once to determine definitely the status of the ship. If it develops that she actually was a private vessel the German and Austrian governments will be asked whether one of their submarines made the attack.

Unless one of the belligerents admits responsibility it is regarded as probable that the nature of the explosion that wrecked the Russian may remain a mystery, since no one saw a submarine or torpedo and the ship is at the bottom of the sea with her wreckage.

Consul Kepinger's account follows:

"British steamer Russian of Leyland Line, after having discharged cargo mules at Salonica brought from Newport News and while on return trip in ballast to Newport News, was struck by what was believed to be a torpedo from submarine at 5:40 in afternoon of December 14 about 200 miles east of Malta.

"The sea was very rough and considerable difficulty was experienced in launching lifeboats, but finally all on board were taken off. A southern gale, rain, thunder and lightning and one of the lifeboats capsized, drowning twenty-eight men, including seventeen American muleteers.

NO American Muleteers Aboard.

"There were ninety American muleteers on board and also some Americans in crew but as ship's papers were lost the actual number is not yet ascertained. It was absolutely dark by time lifeboats were launched and not one on board ever saw any sign of submarine or any other vessel until two British trawlers came to rescue after about six hours and brought them to Malta. Every one aboard, so far as interviewed, are of opinion that the explosion was caused by torpedo, as vessel was struck in hole nearest the stern and was in water more than 2,000 fathoms deep at time.

"The Russian was towed by trawler until about 15th, when it was taken over. It is said by tug and it has since that time been towed by a tug. The nine survivors from capsized lifeboats suffered great hardships from exposure and difficulty in keeping on upturned heads before being rescued. Informed Russian not Admiralty charter. Affidavits by mail."

It was officially announced at the State Department today that final information showing that the British steamer Russian, torpedoed with the loss of six American muleteers, was not and had not been in Admiralty service, had been forwarded to Germany.

In reply to an inquiry from the United States Germany recently stated that her submarine commander sank the Russian without warning, believing her to be a transport, and asked for any information on that point available to the American Government.

INDEPENDENTS AIM TO SWAY CONGRESS

Plan an Organization to Force Radical Changes in House Rules.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Independent members of the incoming House of Representatives are planning an organization to work apart from both Democrats and Republicans with the avowed purpose of enforcing radical changes in the rules.

Thus far no plans have been made for voting as a body in the Speakership fight, but it is not improbable that such an arrangement will be attempted later. Informal conferences among independents now in Congress have resulted in an agreement that something should be done to give more publicity to committee work.

At least one of the independents has conferred with Mr. Roosevelt over the situation and will seek further advice from him on how to proceed.

Conferees have proceeded quietly, usually on the floor of the House. Participants are determined to talk for both Democrats and Republicans are eagerly seeking their favor as the Speakership situation daily becomes more doubtful.

Representative Randall of California, a prohibitionist, indicated today, however, the nature of the immediate plans. "We are anxious that the rules be amended so that the members may know what their Representatives are doing," he said.

"The present system of voting in the committee of the whole makes it impossible for the members to know what their votes on very important proposals. I think if we can remedy this situation and make some changes in the rules, the members will be able to vote an independent organization will be worth while."

Four independents, Representatives Schell of Illinois and Martin of Louisiana, Progressives; Randall of New York, Socialist, and in the present House, they were elected by the Representative-elect Fuller of Massachusetts, Kelly of Pennsylvania and Rankin of Montana will join them. Messrs. Fuller and Kelly were elected as independents. Miss Rankin is a Republican, but hope that her independence is based on the fact that she was opposed by the Republican organization in the primary.

The personnel of the coming House still is in doubt. Both Speaker Clark and Republican Leader Mann declared today that their respective sides would have at least 215 votes, a majority, on the Speakership.

WILLIAM H. TAFT III.

Ex-President's Cold Causes Him to Cancel Several Addresses.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 20.—A heavy cold contracted today has caused ex-President William Howard Taft to cancel a great part of his speaking engagements for his present trip through New England.

Prof. Taft arrived here this morning from New Bedford and made three addresses this afternoon and evening. Immediately after his last address Prof. Taft went to the home of Justice James M. Morton, Jr., whose guest he has been today, and retired, complaining of illness. He declined to make any comment on President Wilson's note regarding a peace conference between the belligerents.

AMERICAN TO FLY IN ROMANIA.

Adjutant Bert Hall to Be Promoted to Rank of Sub-Lieutenant.

SPECIAL Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 20. Adj. Bert Hall, one of the Americans in the French aviation service, has started for Rumania, where he is to be sent when the American aviators were at Bar-le-Duc.

Hall will be promoted to the rank of sub-lieutenant, as will any aviators who volunteer for foreign service.

Frank Seaman, Inc., Celebrates.

To celebrate moving into new offices on the sixteenth floor of the Printing Crafts Building, Eighth avenue and Thirty-fourth street, 165 employees of Frank Seaman, Inc., went to a matinee yesterday and followed it up with a dinner and vaudeville show and a dance in the new offices. Frank Seaman, Inc., of the celebration by distributing \$10,000 among his employees.

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1457-1463 BROADWAY AT FORTY-SECOND STREET

SOUTH WAXES FAT ON "PORK BARREL"

Democrats Reward Home Villages, While Busy Cities in North Are Slighted.

POSTAL RULE IGNORED

Public Building Commission Also Turned Down in Desire to Boost Hamlets.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—An examination of the public buildings bill, which it is proposed to jam through under a gag rule, discloses the extent to which Southern Democrats have controlled the "pork barrel" and the parsimony with which they have handed out "pork" to their Northern brethren.

The Public Buildings Commission, made up of Secretary McAdoo, ex-Attorney-General McReynolds, Postmaster-General Burleson and Senators Swanson and Sutherland and Representatives Clarke and Austin, in a recent report recommended that no public buildings be authorized in places where postal receipts were less than \$10,000 a year.

In this report it was stated that in eleven Northern States there were 377 cities whose postal receipts were more than \$10,000 unprovided with buildings, whereas in eleven Southern States only five such cities were provided.

In spite of this report the distributors of the present bill have gone ahead to ornament pork water towns all through the South with a lavish hand.

Where North Carolina Scores.

North Carolina is to get sixteen public buildings for its ten districts, while Illinois gets only ten for its twenty-three districts. Of the sixteen towns provided for in North Carolina fifteen are under \$10,000 population, and in ten of these the receipts are less than \$10,000 a year.

But the worst instance would appear to be the State of Florida, from which bills Representative Clarke, chairman of the committee. In the report of the Public Buildings Commission it appeared that Florida's demands had all been exhausted. This was after Florida had not eleven new buildings in the 1913 "pork bill" but in spite of this Florida is to get seven more new buildings or sites. These are the towns with their population: Kissimmee, 2,347; Lake City, 5,032; Clearwater, 1,171; Arcadia, 1,125; Monticello, 1,424; Perry, 1,812; West Palm Beach, 1,745.

Florida pays \$225,000 income tax to the government and the total postal receipts of these towns which are to receive a total appropriation of \$135,000 are less than \$50,000. In the 1913 and the 1916 bill Florida has received eight appropriations for its four Congressional districts.

Georgia Outdoes Three States.

Georgia gets more towns provided for than the three States of Iowa, Maine and New Hampshire, and every appropriation in Georgia is for a town containing fewer than 4,000 persons. Not a town under 2,000 population in New York gets a public building under this bill, yet five towns in Missouri get either sites or buildings. Three of them get buildings costing \$40,000. New York contributes \$16 to the public Treasury for every dollar paid by Missouri.

One item in the bill brings to notice the little town of Wilson, in North Carolina, represented by Claude Kitchin, the leader of the House majority. Wilson has a population of 6,717 and postal receipts of \$24,569 and is to get a post office costing \$75,000. Onondaga, N. Y., with over \$75,000 population and postal receipts of \$32,000, gets a post office costing only \$55,000.

SUNDAY MOVIES HELD LEGAL.

Decision Given by Justice Platt of Supreme Court.

Sunday movies are legal, according to a decision yesterday by Supreme Court Justice William Phipps Platt, sitting in White Plains. Justice Platt's decision followed the lines of the decision made years ago by the late Mayor Gaynor when he was a Supreme Court Justice, who decided that inasmuch as the only law thought to forbid Sunday movies was enacted in 1892, before moving pictures had been invented, the legislature who passed that law could not have had in mind the prohibition of Sunday movies.

The decision was the result of an application by President Albert W. Twigger of the village of Ossining for an injunction to close the Alhambra Theatre of his home town on Sundays. Justice Platt refused the injunction.

WEDDING ATTENDANTS CHOSEN.

Miss Townsend Will Be Married to Mr. Fox on January 3.

Arrangements have been completed for the wedding of Miss Adeline Townsend, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Allen Townsend, to Mr. Fox, son of St. Thomas's Church on the afternoon of January 3, a reception to follow at the home of the bride's parents, 237 Madison avenue. Miss Townsend's bridal attendants will include Mrs. Robert C. Winnill and Miss Marion Townsend, her sisters; Miss Voulet Proctor, Miss Ruth Moller, Miss Margaret Kemp and Miss Florence Moberly.

John M. L. Rutherford will act as best man and the ushers will be H. Barrow, Farley, Walter B. Eaton, Charles V. Hixson, Jr., Robert A. H. Baker, Robert C. Winnill, George G. Bourne, Cornelius F. Fox and N. Raymond Fox. Mrs. Townsend will give a dinner for the bridal party on December 28.

Burk—Touchard.

Miss Alberta Louise Touchard was married to John Nagle Burk yesterday afternoon at the home of her mother, Mrs. Gustave Touchard, 600 West 114th street. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. John Alfred of Charlotte, N. Y., a friend of the bride's family. Roger Session acted as best man, but there were no bridesmaids. The bridegroom is a member of the staff of the Boston Transcript. They will live in Boston.

BODANSKY TAKEN ILL; EISLER WIELDS BATON

Assistant Conductor Gets First Chance in Metropolitan Opera.

KREISLER AS PIANIST.

Famous Violin Virtuoso Officially as Accompanist at Song Recital.

Reinhold Warlich, barytone, gave a song recital yesterday afternoon in Aeolian Hall. The occasion was made of importance by the fact that Fritz Kreisler, the distinguished violinist, was in the current program of the program, "at the piano." In other words Mr. Kreisler, who is a violin virtuoso, appeared as Mr. Warlich's accompanist.

Without doubt many honest people were much astonished to learn that Mr. Kreisler could play on a piano. Some of them may have been able to perceive that he did it very well. But there was nothing astonishing in the achievement. Efram Zimbalist is an excellent pianist and sometimes plays accompaniments for recitals by Alma Gluck, Mischa Elman can play on the piano, and Harold Bauer can play on the violin.

Many musicians can play more than one instrument. The specialty of Fritz Kreisler seated before a piano and intelligently operating its keys was one to be noted. It is a pity, however, that he cannot accompany himself. He might then be spared the necessity of accompanying Mr. Warlich.

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FAILS TO BUILD UP A CABINET.

Spittamuel Turns Over Austria's Problem to Count Clemens.

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